## **NEWSRELEASE**

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## Search for escaped inmates continues

Two inmates who escaped from the Montana Women's Prison Sunday morning remained at large Monday afternoon. Prison officials distributed physical descriptions and photographs of both inmates to state and local law enforcement agencies, statewide news media and the National Criminal Information Center. Family members were notified to contact law enforcement if the women are sighted or make contact with them.

Jennifer Terrell, 31, and Alicia Luke, 27, escaped from the Billings prison about 9 a.m. after reporting to their work assignment in the kitchen. The women went out a door and over a fence while the staff supervisor was momentarily assisting two other inmates in another area of the kitchen. Both women were convicted of non-violent offenses and were within two years of discharging their sentences.

"We are taking all the necessary steps to ensure this does not happen again and that all security issues are resolved," said Warden Jo Acton.

The area where the escape occurred has been secured and the entire facility is being reviewed for any possible security problems. Inmates remain under close supervision and activities are being kept at a minimum while the internal security audit is being completed. Additional security measures may be taken following the review and meetings with security staff.

This is the first escape in more than 12 years from the Montana Women's Prison, which houses about 180 inmates.

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